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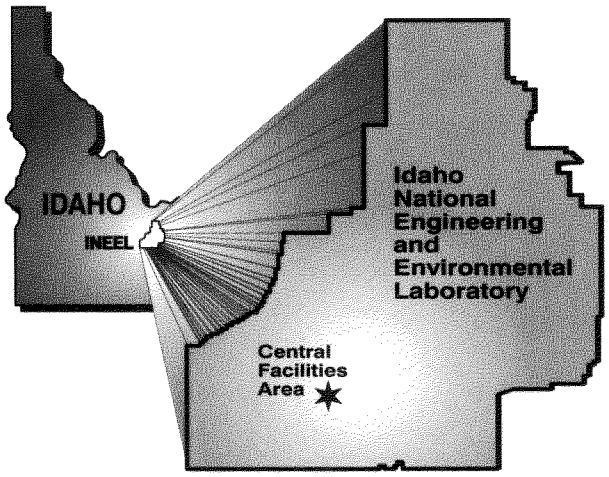
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Agencies agree on change to remediation goal for INEEL cleanup project



The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Idaho have released an explanation of significant differences document outlining a change to an ongoing cleanup project at a former disposal pond at the Central Facilities Area on DOE's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

The pond, called CFA-04, was contaminated with mercury from experiments that took place in the Chemical Engineering Laboratory. Based on new EPA guidelines, the explanation of significant differences increases the final remediation goal for the pond soil from 0.5 milligrams per kilogram to 8.4 mg/kg of mercury contamination, and also eliminates the requirement to backfill the pond with clean soil so it matches the surrounding grade. These changes will continue to be protective of human health and the environment.

Under the new remedy, soil that exceeds the 8.4 mg/kg level will be excavated as deep as 10 feet below ground surface or to basalt, depending on the depth of contamination. The excavated soil will be taken to the INEEL CERCLA Disposal Facility or the CFA landfills if it meets the appropriate waste acceptance criteria. Excavated soil that meets the characteristics of hazardous waste for mercury will be stabilized with concrete before disposal to meet land disposal restrictions and sent to the ICDF. Verification sampling will be performed to ensure the cleanup goal has been met. Instead of backfilling the entire pond with clean soil, only the excavated areas will be backfilled.

The CFA-04 pond is an unlined surface depression that originally served as a borrow pit for construction at the CFA. It is roughly 500 by 150 feet, and seven to eight feet deep. It received laboratory wastes from the Chemical Engineering Laboratory between 1953 and 1969. The laboratory was also used to conduct calcine experiments on simulated nuclear wastes. The pond also received run-off from CFA periodically between 1953 and 1995.

Detailed information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 4-13. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can be found at Albertsons Library at Boise State University. The Administrative Record can be accessed on the Internet at http://ar.inel.gov/home.html. The ESD is available online at: http://www.inel.gov/publicdocuments/factsheet/ou4-13esd.pdf.

The Idaho Completion Project is focused on reducing risk and completing the majority of remaining cleanup work from past INEEL missions by 2012. The project is managed by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy. For more information, contact the ICP Community Relations office at 208-526-3183 or by email at campjl@inel.gov.

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